

Woman Says White Man Was Negro

Ant. 3-2-37
Norfolk Va.
**Daughter Claims
Vast Estate Of
Late City Official**

By HARRY JOHANESSEN
SAN FRANCISCO, (INS)—When Ernest Torregano died in January, 1954, San Francisco mourned a leading attorney, a public-minded citizen, and the socially prominent president of the French Colony's Lafayette Club.

Three thousand miles away in New York, Ernest Torregano's only child, a widow with six children, went through her day, knowing nothing of her father's death—nor of his life prominence and wealth.

FOR 42 YEARS, Ernest Torregano had denied his daughter as he had the heritage of his Negro mother.

The strange story of her father's double life became known when Mrs. Gladys Torregano Stevens filed suit to recover his \$300,000 estate.

Father A Minstrel

MRS. STEVENS, born in New Orleans 52 years ago, knew her father only in her childhood. She remembers him as a member of a wondering Negro minstrel troupe in the South, and as a dining car porter on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

He disappeared from her life when she was nine years old. That was in 1912 when Ernest Torregano made his decision to "pass" over the color line into the more favorable white world. He started a new life in San Francisco.

Died Wealthy

WHEN HE DIED of a heart

attack in his luxurious home, pleaded that he was broke, the former minstrel man had and Mrs. Smith took him at traveled far. He had attained his word until he died and wealth, social position and the size of his estate became solid reputation in the legal public. world. And in 1917 he had Mrs. Smith felt a great married Pearl Chauncey Bry-wrong had been committed. ant, who died childless in 1947.

He left almost his entire estate to Alfred Torregano, a brother who shared his secret and worked as a janitor in a San Francisco department store.

MRS. STEVENS was not named in the will, an omission which gave her attorney a legal avenue to contest the document since California law provides that a dead man's child becomes sole heir to his estate unless specifically disinherited.

Intentional?

"I don't believe my father wanted to leave me out," Mrs. Stevens says. "He was a good lawyer and he know about the law that gave me a right to his estate if he didn't disown me."

"AND HE DIDN'T in his will. So, you see, maybe he had it figured out that this way I'd get the money to share with the rest of the family and he still wouldn't have to reveal he'd passed. That must have been it."

Mrs. Stevens learned of her father's "second life" from her aunt, Mrs. Marie Louise Torregano Smith, 11, a housekeeper for a San Rafael (Calif.) family.

Past Recounted

MRS. SMITH wrote a long letter telling how she had financed her brother's mail order law course, how he had passed the California Bar examinations, how he had set up a law practice, and how he had "passed" for 45 years.

Through the years, Mrs. Smith explained, she kept Torregano's secret but frequently asked him to help his daughter, who was left widowed with six children.

Pleaded "Broke"

She said Torregano always

SHE SAID SHE talked with Alfred Torregano many times, begging him to acknowledge his niece and to share his brother's estate.

But, she said, her pleas were ignored, and she finally began what turned out to be



MRS. GLADYS T. STEVENS
Claims Estate

a long search for Mrs. Stevens.

WHEN THE TWO were reunited they decided that Alfred's attitude made it necessary to seek legal aid and go through the painful process of revealing Ernest Torregano's double life.

Evidence Piled Up

Accordingly, Attorney Ber-gen Van Brunt of San Francisco was retained and a mountain of evidence was gathered, including affidavits, letters from relatives, family photographs and Gladys Stevens' birth certificate.

THE LATTER document showed that Gladys was born in 1904 in New Orleans and listed the parents as Viola and Ernest Joseph Torregano. It bore the notation "(Col.)" Van Brunt filed all the documents in San Francisco Superior Court with a petition demanding recovery of the Torregano estate for Mrs. Stevens.

VAN BRUNT'S petition set forth:

—That Ernest Joseph Torregano was born 74 years ago in New Orleans, the son of a white father and a Negro mother, and was educated in a Jesuit school.

—That in young manhood he became a singer and handyman with a minstrel show.

—That he married the show's star singer, a girl named Viola Perrett, whose father was half-Negro and half-white and whose mother was part Indian and part Negro.

Deserted Mother

MRS. STEVENS said her mother went to work to support her family after her father left home and never spoke of him again. "Mother had pride," she said, "and when her man left her she said nothing more about him."

WHEN HER MOTHER died Gladys Torregano went to live with her paternal grandmother, who was aware of her son's new life in San Francisco.

Lonely Widow

Gladys eventually married a New Orleans banker, the late William Stevens, and bore him four daughters and two son. When her husband died in their 16th year of marriage,

Mrs. Stevens went to work as an insurance company bookkeeper to support and educate her children.

MRS. STEVENS' court action came as a surprise to Alfred Torregano, who retired from his store job after his brother's death. When news-men found him, he denied that he and his brother were Negroes and denied that he had a niece.

Not Talking

The next day he went into seclusion at the home of his daughter and son-in-law and refused to talk with reporters either in person or by telephone.

HIS WIFE AND daughter said only that they knew nothing more than they had read in the newspapers, but added that "we are investigating."

About two thirds of Ernest Torregano's estate has been distributed. The remainder has been tied up by Van Brunt's court action on which a hearing date has not yet been set.

**Admit Late
San Francisco Atty.
Was Part Negro**
Ant. 3-25-37

SAN FRANCISCO—(INS)—The defense in the battle over the estate of Ernest J. Torregano conceded Wednesday that the late San Francisco Attorney and civic leader was at least part Negro. Torregano, who held himself out as a member of the white race during a long and distinguished career, left an estate valued at \$325,000 when he died in 1954.

Mrs. Gladys Torregano Stevens, a 53-year-old New Orleans Negro, is seeking recovery of the entire estate on the claim that Torregano was her father.

The concession concerning Torregano's racial origin was made by Atty. Maynard Garrison during a conference in the chambers of Judge Thomas M. Foley.

Garrison said "we are prepared to agree that Ernest Torregano had some colored blood."

Garrison made the assertion while arguing in support of two motions to have the case thrown out of court. Mrs. Stevens fight for the estate revolves around claims that Torregano married her mother more than 58 years ago while both were traveling with a minstrel show in the Deep South; that he later worked as a Southern Pacific railroad porter and finally deserted his family in New Orleans.

Attorney a Negro, Estate Concedes

Personal
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for the question of her paternity is one of the major issues in the case.

Mrs. Stevens claims she is the only child of Torregano, a San Francisco attorney and civic leader who "passed" for many years as a member of the white race before death ended his distinguished career in 1954.

Alfred Torregano, former maintenance man in a San Francisco department store and the half-brother to whom Ernest left the great bulk of his estate, was called to the witness chair as an adverse witness by Atty. Bergen Van Brunt, representing Mrs. Stevens.

Alfred, 69, told of his and Ernest's early life in New Orleans and mentioned that Ernest worked in a minstrel show before coming to San Francisco in 1904 and passing the color line.

"I guess he was the middle man," Alfred said and Judge Foley interposed:

"You mean he was the interlocutor?"

"Yes," said Alfred. "I only wish he was at my side now."

He testified he never heard of Gladys Torregano until the estate fight developed and had never heard of her late mother, Viola Perrett Torregano, either.

Awarded Estate After Long Tilt

LOS ANGELES—After eight years of legal wrangling, Allen Woods, 39, former chauffeur who married the 13-year-old daughter of a British general, has secured

Daughter Suing for Estate

Admits Lawyer Was Part-Negro

SAN FRANCISCO—The late Ernest J. Torregano, who "passed" the color line, amassed a fortune and left an estate valued at \$325,000, was conceded to have been part-Negro by defense attorneys in court action brought about by a New Orleans woman who claimed he was her father.

Mrs. Gladys Torregano Stevens, 53, Negro, is seeking recovery of the entire estate, claiming that Torregano was her father.

MRS. STEVENS maintains that Torregano married her mother more than 58 years ago while both were traveling with a minstrel show in the South. She said he worked as a porter for the Southern Pacific Railroad, then deserted his family, came to San Francisco and "passed" for white.

Atty. Maynard Garrison made the concession regarding Torregano's racial origin before Judge Thomas M. Foley. Garrison said: "We are prepared to agree that Ernest Torregano had some colored blood."

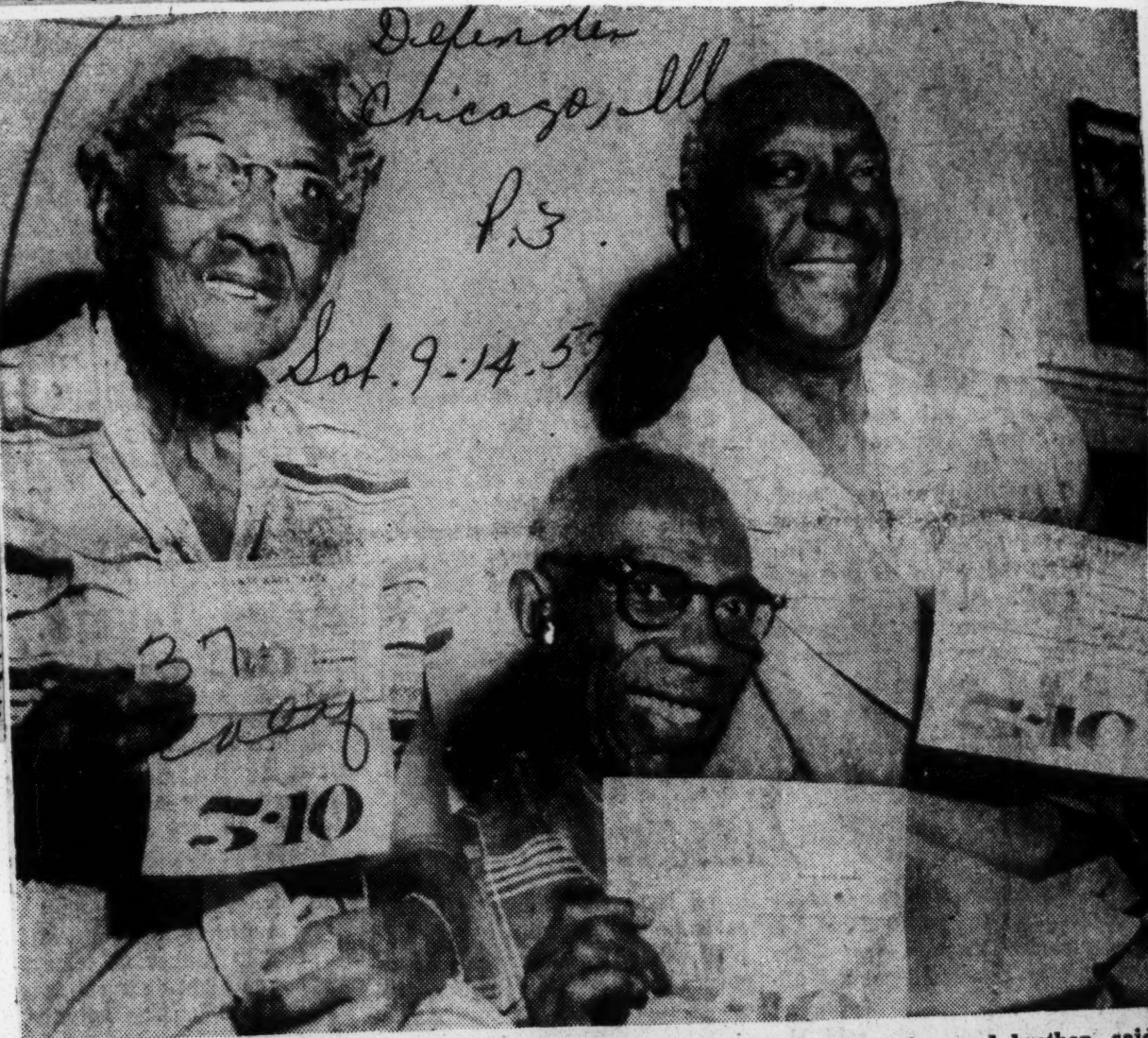
Torregano, who died in 1954, was an attorney and civic leader who "passed" as a member of the white race during a long and distinguished career.

OK Birth Papers In Will Fight

SAN FRANCISCO—(INS)—A birth certificate entry purporting to show that a 53 year old Negro widow from New Orleans is the daughter of the late Ernest J. Torregano was admitted in evidence last week in the court battle over Torregano's \$325,000 estate.

It was an important victory for Mrs. Gladys Torregano Stevens,

the legacy of property and jewelry she left him.



RECORD PAYOFF of \$84,250.80 — on a \$2.00 bet — is won by Thomas King, 57, of Los Angeles, (center) and his blind brother, Samuel

(right). Jackpot was won in a cash handicapping pool at Agua Caliente, Mexico. At left is their mother, Mrs. Hattie Perkins. King, sole support of

his mother and brother, said he had been sick four months and was about to lose his personal property because of unpaid bills. (INP Soundphoto)

Passer's deserted daughter sues for \$275,000 estate

Afro-American Sat. 1-19-57 P. 19
Baltimore, Md.

SAN FRANCISCO (ANP) — This city is agog over a petition filed in Superior court charging that the late Ernest J. Torregano, prominent lawyer and city official, posed as a white man for 45 years, when in reality he was colored.

The expose was brought about by Mrs. Gladys Torregano Stevens, 52, who says she was the late Torregano's daughter, and who is currently petitioning the court to award her the entire estate of \$275,000 left by the attorney.

Her petition, filed by Bergen Van Brunt, charges that Torregano abandoned his family and race in New Orleans in 1912 and came to San Francisco.

IN SUPPORT of the petition, Mrs. Stevens produced a birth certificate, which lists an Ernest Torregano, 22, as father of a baby girl named 'Gladys' and Viola Perrett as mother. The certificate notes that the child, born Feb. 7, 1904, is colored.

Torregano died in Jan. 1954 at the age of 71. He studied law at St. Ignatius College, and upon completion, began a practice, in which he specialized in bankruptcy cases.

He acknowledged only one wife, Pearl Clancy Bryant Torregano, whom he married here in 1917 and who died in 1947. They had no children.

AT HIS death, his will left the bulk of the estate to a brother, Alfred Torregano. The remainder of the estate was divided among several organizations in which he had been an active figure.

Mrs. Stevens, a widow and mother of seven children, said she was nine years old when her father left her mother, but that she heard from and of him until 1927, when her maternal grandmother died.

She had no idea of his whereabouts in San Francisco until last fall when her aunt, Mario Louise Torregano Smith, came to the Bay area.

Widow Seeking \$275,000 Estate

Defender P. 1
Chicago, Ill.
SAN FRANCISCO — (INS) — A petition filed in Superior Court Tuesday charged that the late Ernest J. Torregano, for many years a prominent San Francisco official, lived a 45-year lie by posing as a white man and denying his Negro family.

The court was asked to award Torregano's entire estate of about \$275,000 to Mrs. Gladys Torregano Stevens, who claims that she was the late civic leader's legitimate daughter.

Mrs. Stevens, a widow with seven children, was identified as a legal resident of New York State, now living in Los Angeles.

LEFT FAMILY
The petition, filed by Attorney Bergen Van Brunt, charges that Torregano abandoned his family and his race in New Orleans in 1912 and went to San Francisco.

San Francisco friends of Torregano knew him only as a self-made lawyer who never attended college, as president of the planning commission during the first term of Mayor Elmer Robinson, as a man active in French colony affairs, and as a vigorous civic leader.

He explained his dark complexion by reference to his French Creole origins in New Orleans.

The bulk of Torregano's estate, following his death two years ago, went to a brother, Alfred Torregano, a San Francisco department store janitor.

BROTHER KNEW
Van Brunt's petition charges that Alfred Torregano knew of the existence of Mrs. Stevens and accuses him of "fraudulently concealing" the fact.

Torregano, according to the petition and accompanying affidavits was born of Negro parents in New Orleans and married a woman of his own race. A daughter, the petition continues, was born to Mrs. Torregano before Torregano first went to San Francisco around 1909.

For at least three years, the petition states, Torregano continued to acknowledge and support his wife and his daughter, the present Mrs. Stevens.

RAPID RISE
Then, Van Brunt says, Torregano passed over into the white world, rose rapidly as a self-tutored lawyer and became locally famed as an expert in bankruptcy cases and as president for a number of terms of the politically-potent Lafayette club.

Subsequently, according to Van Brunt, the New Orleans wife died and the daughter married a Negro and settled to the raising of a family, unaware that her father was a wealthy San Francisco lawyer.



Defender
Chicago, Ill.
37 Sat. 1-19-57
Cal
IN LOS ANGELES, Mrs. Gladys Torregano Stevens, 52, is suing for her share of a \$275,000 estate left by her father, Ernest J. Torregano, a prominent San Francisco lawyer and city official. Mrs. Ste-

vens is charging her father lived for 45 years as a white man, denying his Negro family. She is a widow with seven children. (International Soundphoto)

Calmly Awaits Court Decision

\$300,000 Estate Of 'White' Father May Go To N.O. Widow

Fate and destiny have strange ways of overcoming injustices and other acts which in the sight of God are considered wrong. There is no escape from the inevitable and if the late Ernest J. Torregano was living today he of all people would sanction this to be true.

Ernest J. Torregano was born in New Orleans according to the records in 1882, the son of a white father and a mulatto mother, which by existing law racially classified him as a Negro.

Torregano's desire to cross the color line and become later

"a practitioner of the Lost Boudaries way of life," was well founded for as a child he attended a French Jesuit school (thought today by some to be St. Aloysius College) where he learned to speak French fluently and was accepted without question by both students and teachers as an equal.

As a young man he joined a group of concert singers and it was here that a new experience was to come into his life for he met, fell in love with and married Viola Parrett of mixed blood as his own. She was

part White, part Seminole Indian and part Negro. A child was born to the couple - a baby daughter named "Gladys," as indicated on a certificate that the child was born February 7, 1904.

Normally this would have been the beginning of a happy family life, but young Torregano, being of a restless nature, known to be gay and free, tried to earn a living for his family as a Pullman porter for the Southern Pacific Railway.

It was in this employment as a porter that his pride rebelled, his former training as a high school teacher manifested itself and his ambition caused him to turn his back upon those he had sacredly vowed to cherish until "death do us part." And, like a Nomad, he deserted his home, his wife, and their child.

In this strange twentieth century "Tale of Two Cities," why did Torregano chose San Francisco? The answer is simple - "as a Pullman Porter, his job took him to San Francisco and he fell in love with the city and Horace Greely's advice for a new life filled with opportunities was in the West."

Surviving this movie-like drama today is that little daughter, Mrs. Gladys Torregano Stevens, who resides here with a daughter. Mrs. Stevens now 52-years-old, has filed claim to the whole of Torregano's \$300,000.00 estate, but in spite of her awareness of the existing fortune and her nearness to economic security, her daily life's routine follows the same trend unspoiled with dreams of wealth.

Mrs. Stevens said that "after my father left my mother never spoke unkindly of him. She was proud and my last memory of my father was in a gift of doll he gave me on New Year's day of 1908." She explained that it was a custom of the French to give toys and gifts to their children on the first day of the New Year, rather than at Christmas. She further stated that she still has the doll.

In 1917 Ernest Torregano married a white woman, Pearl Bryant. There were no children to this marriage. She died in 1947 after a prolonged illness. He died in January of 1954 and the City of San Francisco mourned the passing of a leading citizen. This is where the story would have normally closed, but Torregano was not a normal man. His existence had been in the West, though bedecked with fame and fortune, had been that of a "Magnificent Imposter," - he had denied through trickery his wife, Viola, of a husband, and a daughter - Gladys, the love, guidance and knowledge of a father.

"East is East and West is West" and never are the two

suppose to meet, but this statement was not to hold up in this "Tale of Two Cities," for Mrs. Gladys Stevens in placing her claim for a daughter's share of Torregano's estate has placed the final earthly chapter still to be written in the Court's hands for judgement.

Mrs. Stevens is the mother of six children, four girls and two boys: Vallery Stevens, and Ralph Stevens, both postal government employees, New Orleans; Mrs. Francis Stevens Smith, New York City, a Certification Officer, Welfare Department; Mrs. McLein George New Orleans, employed as a secretary, Orleans Parish School Board; Mrs. Bowman Thomas and Mrs. Edward LeCroix, both of Los Angeles, California.



Pictured are the six children of Mrs. Gladys Torregano Stevens, New Orleans widow who made the headlines across the nation several weeks ago when she filed suit in San Francisco, California, charging that the late Attorney J.

Torregano was her father and had lived a 45-year lie by posing as a white man and denying his Negro family. Shown are (left to right) Vallery, Verna, Ralph, Devota, Ethel and Jeanette.

37 1957

Personal Savings Show Sharp Rise

BY REYNOLDS KNIGHT

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Rising

personal savings promise more in the way of relieving the so-called credit squeeze than all the rhetoric now being devoted to the topic in and out of Congress.

In the final quarter of 1956, the Department of Commerce reports, savings were 7.6 per cent of personal incomes. That's marked increase from the 6.8 per cent reported for the like quarter of 1955.

Of course, statistical savings are not quite the same as money in the bank. Reduction in mortgage indebtedness and rises in cash surrender values of life insurance policies are both counted statistically as savings. In truth, they are savings, but we don't usually consider them that.

Savings institutions reported their rate of adding deposits showed no change from 1955 to 1956. So the fact that savings rose is a tribute to the campaign of the New York Stock Exchange and individual investment houses to have savings put directly into corporate securities. Net purchases of such securities last year were twice those of 1955.

Moreover, as 1956 progressed securities buyers turned more and more to bonds — a shift which the course of common stock prices shows to have been a wise one.

Higher savings and lower spending — the two must go hand in hand — will soon relieve credit stringency, if nothing political is done to upset the applecart before this result arrives.

145 Listed \$1 Million Income in '53

United Press

The Government reported yesterday that 145 Americans made a million dollars or more in 1953, with New York and Texas dominating membership in the exclusive club.

After a sifting of income tax records for that year, the Internal Revenue Service found 53 New Yorkers and 18 Texans in the \$1 million or more bracket. The two states accounted for almost half of the millionaires from a total of 23 states. The service also said that nearly 58 million taxpayers paid \$29 billion on earnings of \$230 billion.

Delaware, home of the powerful du Pont family, was in third place with 11 millionaires.

Other states with members in the fraternity were: Illinois and Pennsylvania, 9; Florida, 8; Michigan, 7; New Jersey, 5; Ohio, 4; California, 3; Connecticut, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Virginia, 2; and Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Vermont and Wisconsin, one each.

Average Family's Booming Income in U.S. Last Year Placed at \$5700

NEW YORK, May 7 (AP) — What was your family's total income last year?

If it matched the national average in these booming times, it was \$5700.

Sales Management Magazine, in its annual survey of consumer buying power, reported Tuesday that the "average" U.S. family had a 1956 income of \$5736.

That's \$271—or about 5 per cent—more than the "average" family income of \$5465 reported by Sales Management for 1955.

According to the magazine's 1956 survey, the families with the biggest percentage of high incomes live in Washington, D.C. There, the average last year was \$7688.

Connecticut Income High

Connecticut also boasts a large concentration of wealthy families, placing first among the states with an "average" yearly income of \$7614.

Next on the Sales Management Magazine list is New Jersey, with an average family income of \$7190.

Then come Nevada, \$6727; Illinois, \$6654; Delaware, \$6452; Ohio, \$6221; Massachusetts, \$6311; New York, \$6261; Rhode Island, \$6248, and Michigan, \$6245.

Among the nation's 262 metropolitan areas, the Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk region in Connecticut headed the 1956 prosperity parade with an average family income of \$8526. Sales Management said—an increase of \$633 over 1955. Many New York executives live there.

The Washington, D. C., area placed second with \$8017, followed by the Hartford-New Britain district in Connecticut, \$8001; Midland, Tex., \$7910; Champaign-Urbana, Ill., \$7885; Trenton, N. J., \$7796; Cleveland, \$7509; Toledo, \$7496, and South Bend, Ind., \$7475.

The Midland, Tex., and Miami, Fla., areas had the highest retail sales per family, with \$5838 for Midland and \$5837 for Miami. Other leaders in this category were Reno, Nev., \$5718; Greensboro-High Point, N. C., \$5651; Fargo, N. C., \$5413; Charlotte, N. C., \$5350; Atlantic City, N. J., \$5288, and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., \$5274.

GENERAL

Abject Squalor Stains Conscience of the South

In the midst of prosperity and inflation, statistics soar and drop like a roller-coaster ride. The U.S. Census Bureau has released its income figures for 1955 and the South shows progress, though lagging behind the national average.

During 1955 the South's median income was placed at \$3,586 per person. This was \$835 less than the national average. It was \$1,226 under the Western median; \$1,128 lower than the Northeast and \$1,226 under income in the North Central region.

Why?

Because in the South almost a million families and "unrelated individuals," had shockingly low income of less than \$500 per year. And almost another million had incomes between \$500 and \$1,000.

How those persons lived, what happened to the children in the families, and what sort of social results will emerge from that condition is for the future to answer.

At the other end, some 51,000 Southerners earned from \$25,000 and up. The largest related income group was the 1,239,175 families with incomes between \$5,000 and \$6,000 per year. Next largest group was the 1,149,750 families who earned between \$7,000 and \$10,000.

Today's employment opportunities offer little for the untrained. And the person who is 40 years old and more with no record of consistent employment and skills, is in for a most difficult time of it insofar as a job is concerned.

Statisticians say final tabulations for 1956 will produce a picture not greatly different from that of 1955.

Somehow, some way there ought to be regional and national planning to see what can be done about the lowest income group.

Women Are Top Holders Of Property In Nation

By OLGA CURTIS

NEW YORK —(INS)— It's not the meek who inherit the earth any more, it's the women.

Women are the biggest property holders in the U. S., largely because they outlive men, Milton C. Lightner, of the National Association of Manufacturers said.

Lightner, an NAM vice-president, told the women's session at the 62nd Congress of American Industry that women now own three-quarters of all of America's assets.

BONDS TOO
"This includes 100 billion dollars in common and preferred stock, almost 60 billion savings accounts and roughly 35 billion in government bonds," he said.

In addition, 75 per cent of all life insurance benefits, or about 15 billion dollars a year, go to

widows, and widows pay nearly 80 per cent of all inheritance taxes.

Men like to refer to property as "being in my wife's name," Lightner noted, but the truth is that women own the property.

In spite of their financial holdings, women apparently don't want to run or control big corporations, Lightner said.

IN CONTROL

But they are "in control" as buyers of what the corporations offer — dominating by what they buy such production as refrigerators, stoves, toasters and dishwashers. "The choice of a new automobile or new home is largely your responsibility," Lightner told the all-female audience.

The NAM official urged women, because of their financial interest, to take a bigger part in community and government affairs. He pointed out:

"You are the principal owners of business, the chief purchasing agents and the largest property holders. Never before in history has the future of a great nation depended more on its women."

It's Not The Meek Who Inherit The Earth; It's Women Who Own It All

By OLGA CURTIS

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Document Left Widow Estate

Defender *Sat. 2-16-57*
Chicago, Ill.
Declaring that there were too many suspicious circumstances connected with it, Judge Charles G. Seidel last week refused to permit the alleged last will of Robert A. Cole, insurance magnate, to be accepted for probate.

The document, which leaves Cole's entire estate to his widow, Mrs. Mary F. Cole, was dated Dec. 5, 1955. Cole died in July 1953.

Its authenticity was challenged by Atty. Edward B. Toles and Theodore R. Hawes, manager of Metropolitan funeral parlors, who are named executors and trustees of a will made by Cole dated Jan. 15, 1953.

In refusing to accept the Dec. 1955 will, Judge Seidel cited a number of discrepancies, and expressed the opinion that the two



MRS. COLE

witnesses to the will, Junius Ambrose, Mrs. Cole's chauffeur, and William P. Greer, a Pullman porter and tenant in the building where the Coles live, did not see Robert Cole sign the document.

TIME CONFLICT

"When the two witnesses testified originally," the jurist said,

"they stated that the signing had been done in the morning. However, later, the contestants (Toles and Hawes) brought in records which show Greer could not possibly have been in Chicago at the time he said he was.

"Greer then came in and changed his testimony stating that the signing was in the afternoon. The other witness did not come back to change his testimony."

Judge Seidel also took note of the fact that Cole was a substantial business man surrounded by attorneys and he doubted that Cole would have drafted such a document without availing himself of one.

The jurist pointed out that Cole's business interests were varied and he would have been the type to have an elaborate instrument to take care of his various interests. The will presented for probate was a one-page printed form.

Judge Seidel's decision leaves the 7-page will dated Jan. 15, 1953. Hearings on this are scheduled for Feb. 20.

In this will, the trust estate is listed and ordered to continue until his daughter, Roberta Cole is 30 years old, or in case of her death, until the son, Robert jr., is 35.

Toles and Hawes are named as trustees and other provisions include:

"That the property at 915 Hyde Park blvd., where the widow lives, Cole's personal wearing and household effects, including household furnishings and all jewelry go to Mrs. Cole.

"That the trustees pay from the net income of the trust estate, beginning one year from his death, to the widow whatever sum they deem fit and proper for the sup-

port and education of my two children, Robert and Roberta." signed in the presence of Judge William J. Touhy in Circuit Court.

"That the trustees shall pay from the trust estate, beginning immediately upon my death, the sum of \$250 a week for the entire period of this trust to my wife. (Provision allegedly was made for the temporary termination of this payment.)

"That sums be spent for training my son to carry on the funeral business."

The will also specified that Robert jr., be employed "in the operation of said business and to manage the same when it appears consistent with the profitable and successful operation of said business."

Other stipulations concerned the management of the estate and compensation for the trustees. James Grantham and Melvin McNairy were named first and second successor trustees.

Litigation Ends
Cole Widow
Awarded Hunk
Of Estate

By TED WATSON
(Chicago Correspondent)

CHICAGO — Litigation over two wills left by the late Robert R. Cole, founder of the Chicago Metropolitan Mutual Assurance Company, has been settled. This decision came midweek when all parties concerned agreed to accept the will dated Jan. 15, 1953, as the one to be probated. The agreement disposes of all



MRS. MARY COLE

pending legal actions and was signed in the presence of Judge William J. Touhy in Circuit Court.

Figuring in the final settlement were Mrs. Mary Cole, widow of the late Mr. Cole; her two children, Robert Cole Jr. and Roberta, and two company trustees, Theodore Hawes and Atty. Edward Toles.

According to the court, Mrs. Cole will immediately receive \$24,750 which represents money due her from the estate dating from the time of Mr. Cole's death, July 27, 1956, and other sums due her.

UNDER THE 1953 will, the estate consists of the funeral home and the garage, for which Mrs. Cole, T. Hawes and Toles are named as trustees and executors. From this estate, Mrs. Cole is to receive \$250 per week and maintenance and education expenses for Roberta and Robert, who were minors at the time the will was drawn. She will also receive an addition \$250 per week salary as funeral director and embalmer for the funeral home.

Mrs. Cole also inherits, directly, three apartment buildings and the family residence at 915 E. Hyde Park Blvd., plus all household effects and jewelry.

The Cole estate does not include the Chicago Metropolitan Mutual Assurance Company, of which he was founder and president until his death.

Chicago Metropolitan Mutual Assurance company; her two children, Robert Cole, jr., and Roberta, and two company trustees, Theodore Hawes and Atty. Edward Toles.

Mrs. Cole was represented by Attys. George Leighton and William R. Ming, jr., of the law firm of Moore, Ming and Leighton.

SON A STUDENT

Cole's son, Robert, jr., a student in an embalming school, was represented by Atty. Morton John Barnard.

Roberta Cole's guardian for purpose of legal representation, since she is a minor, was Atty. George Lane. Atty. Richard Hill, jr., represented Hawes and Toles.

Hawes, and Atty. Edward Toles, named as trustees and executors of the estate along with Mrs. Cole, were represented by Atty. Richard Hill, jr.

Mrs. Cole will immediately receive \$24,750, representing money due her from the estate dating from the time of Cole's death, July 27, 1956 and other sums due her.

1953 WILL

Under the 1953 will, the estate consists of the funeral home and the garage for which Mrs. Cole, Hawes and Toles are named as trustees and executors.

However, from this estate Mrs. Cole is to receive \$250 per week and maintenance and education expenses for Roberta and Robert, who was a minor at the time the

Defender *Chicago, Ill.*
Sat. 5-18-57
**Agree To Accept
1953 Document**

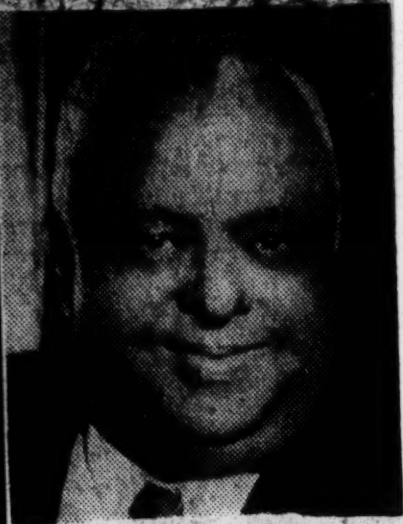
Litigation over two wills left by the late Robert Cole was settled last week when all parties concerned agreed to accept the will dated Jan. 15, 1953, as the one to be probated.

The agreement, which disposes of all pending legal actions, was signed in the presence of Judge William J. Touhy as funeral director and embalmer for the funeral home, Mrs. Cole

Involved in the final settlement receives, in addition, \$250 per week salary. Hawes as manager the late financier and founder of the funeral home and Toles as



MARY COLE



ROBERT COLE.

attorney for the corporation are also on the payroll.

After 13 years, the estate is to be divided equally among Mrs. Cole and her two children.

As the widow, Mrs. Cole inherits directly three apartment buildings, and the family residence at 915 Hyde Park blvd., plus all household effects and jewelry.

Mrs. Cole said she was satisfied with the outcome of the case and expressed relief that the litigation is over.

Cole's estate does not include the Chicago Metropolitan Mutual Assurance company of which he was founder and president until his death; and none of the litigation in any way affects the insurance concern, a spokesman explained.

Mrs. Imes' estate will be divided among five

Sept. 2-23-57
BALTIMORE

In a will drawn on March 14, 1956, 10 months before her death, Mrs. Grace McCard Imes divided her estate among her husband, Dr. G. Lake Imes, her sister, Mrs. Ruth Burgess and three Baltimore men. It is estimated that the estate will approximate \$15,000.

The friends listed in the document are: Attorney Dallas F. Nicholas, A. Cornelius Jennings, and Mrs. Alice O. Carter. Mr. Jennings, an insurance and real estate dealer, is a former longtime family employee. Mrs. Carter had been housekeeper for Mrs. Imes for 31 years.

UNDER THE terms of the will, Dr. Imes will receive his wife's wedding ring and the remainder of the estate after bequests to Messrs. Nicholas and Jennings and Mesdames Burgess and Carter.

Mr. Nicholas will get the annual ground rent of \$90 and the reversion in the premises and property at 1833 Madison Ave.

30 shares of the Consolidated Gas and Electric Light and power Company of Baltimore were given to Mr. Jennings.

MRS. CARTER was bequeathed the leasehold property No. 2343 Druid Hill Ave. and Mrs. Burgess was given the Stieff silverware. The plated silverware went to Mrs. Carter.

Mrs. Imes stipulated that the silver should be delivered to the legatees upon the death of her husband.

Item 7 of the will left the remainder of the estate to Dr. Imes.

MRS. IMES, civic leader for 50 years, died here on January 19, 1957, at the age of 80.

The will was probated in Orphans Court last week by Mr. Nicholas and Dr. Imes, who have been appointed administrators.

37 1957

MISSISSIPPI

\$353,000 Estate Goes To Mississippi Sisters

Courier Sat 2-23-57 P. 7
ST. LOUIS — A whopping estate worth \$353,976 will be split up between two sisters in West Point, Miss., as the result of a will left by the widow of a barber here.

Left \$207,000 by her husband, Albert, in 1945, Mrs. Caroline Wilkinson, who died on Jan. 10 at the age of 76, used a sense of shrewd investment and securities to hike the amount by \$146,576.

With the exception of some bequests totaling \$2,500, the bulk of the estate will go to Mrs. Wilkinson's sisters in Mississippi. Two-thirds of the amount will go to Mrs. Florence M. Crowell, and the other third will go to Mrs. Emma M. Green.

The late Albert Wilkinson had served as a barber for 25 years in the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce Building before he died.

Sisters Left \$350,000 Remain 'Unimpressed'

Post-Examiner Herald Washington, D.C.
ST. LOUIS, Feb. 15 (AP) — Two Negro sisters from Mississippi who have been bequeathed more than \$350,000 were described by their attorney today as being "as unimpressed as you could imagine."

"I doubt that getting the money will change their way of life very much," said Thomas F. McDonald, the attorney.

The sisters are Florence Crowell, a retired school teacher, and Emma M. Green, both of West Point, Miss. They were willed the money by their sister, Caroline Wilkinson, widow of a Negro barber here.

Mrs. Wilkinson, who died last month at 76, and her husband, Albert (Ed) Wilkinson, who died in 1945, built the fortune through shrewd investments.

Sat. 2-16-57
The estate was valued at \$353,976 in an inventory filed yesterday.

PEGGY JOYCE'S WILL

James 8-29
**Former Show Girl Left Bulk
of Estate to 6th Husband**

New York
Peggy Hopkins Joyce bequeathed her residuary estate to her sixth husband, Andrew C. Meyer. Her will was filed for probate in Surrogate's Court yesterday. She died June 12.

The petition for probate formally valued her estate at "more than \$20,000." Her will, dated May 28, authorized her executor, the Bankers Trust Company, to spend \$25,000 for a mausoleum or crypt in a cemetery of her husband's selection.

57-113
The former show girl left \$25,000 to her sister, Lucille Gearhart, Lynchburg, Va., and to her cousin Myrtle Williams, Norfolk, Va.; \$10,000 to Madeleine Copeland, a friend, 150 West Fifty-Fifth Street, and \$5,000 to Bettine Ragland, her maid, 236 West 188th Street.

Negro Leaves Large Estate

News of the Week
An inventory of the estate of W. O. Yarbrough of 613 East Edenton Street, who died Dec. 26, was filed here yesterday in the office of the Wake County clerk of court. Yarbrough, a 49-year-old Negro

who was district manager of Josten's Manufacturing Company, left an estate amounting to \$97,526.97.

Properties were divided as follows: Stocks and bonds, \$43,025; mortgages and notes, \$40,088.68; bank deposits, \$3,179.29; real estate, \$5,799; insurance payable to beneficiaries, \$1,435; furniture, \$1,000; and miscellaneous property, \$3,000.

Raleigh, N.C.
Listed as beneficiaries were his widow, Mrs. Merca Lee Yarbrough; two daughters, Madelyn E. Yarbrough, 12, and Marilyn V. Yarbrough, 11; and a son, William A. Yarbrough, 5, all of the Edenton Street residence.

1-4-57
A native of Macon, Tenn., Yarbrough was the son of Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Yarbrough. He was a district director of the National Association of Marketing Developers.

Mr. Yarbrough was the son of Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Yarbrough. He was past Sixth District deputy ruler of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and district director of National Association of Market Developers.

He was known as the "class pin man" because of his travels in and out of the state demonstrating and taking orders for college and high school class pins, keys and other paraphernalia. Mr. Yarbrough had expected to attend the recent Omega Fraternity conclave in Baltimore as a delegate from the local chapter but his plans were cut short by his fatal illness.

\$97,000 Estate Left By N.C. Businessman

Covered P. 4
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat 1-26-57
RALEIGH, N.C. (ANP)—An inventory into the estate of W. O. Yarbrough, filed in the office of the Wake County Clerk of Courts, revealed that the assets of the estate were in excess of \$97,000.

Yarbrough, who was a district manager of Josten's Manufacturing Company here, died and left a total of \$97,526.97 to his widow, Mrs. Merca Lee Yarbrough; two daughters, Madelyn E. Yarbrough, 12, and Marilyn V. Yarbrough, 11; and a son, William A. Yarbrough, 5.

37 N.C.
Properties were divided as follows: Stocks and bonds, \$43,025; mortgages and notes, \$40,088.68; bank deposits, \$3,179.29; real estate, \$5,799; insurance payable to beneficiaries, \$1,435; furniture, \$1,000; and miscellaneous property, \$3,000.

Yarbrough, a native of Macon, Tenn., was the son of Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Yarbrough. He was a national district director of the National Association of Marketing Developers.

\$100,000 is left by class pin man

App. American P. 3
Sat 1-19-57
RALEIGH, N.C. — W. O. Yarbrough, 49, known all along the Eastern Seaboard as "the class pin man," left an estate valued at about \$100,000, according to an inventory report filed here last week.

Baltimore, Md.
Mr. Yarbrough, district manager of Josten's Manufacturing Company and widely known fraternal leader, who died Dec. 26, reportedly left an estate valued conservatively at \$97,526.97.

AMONG ASSETS listed in the estate are:

Stocks and bonds, \$43,025; mortgages and notes, \$40,088.68; cash in banks, \$3,179.29; real estate, \$5,799; insurance for beneficiaries, \$1,435; furniture, \$1,000, and miscellaneous items, \$3,000.

Beneficiaries of the estate include his wife, Mrs. Merca Lee Yarbrough; two daughters, Madelyn E., 12, and Marilyn V., 11, and a son, William, all of 613 E. Edenton St., this city.

A NATIVE of Macon, Tenn.,

Horace Sudduth Estate Is Filed

CINCINNATI, Ohio, July 7.—A nationally known real estate broker who was president of the National Negro Business League here left a \$366,152.91 estate to his two daughters, it was learned last week.

An inventory of the estate of Horace H. Sudduth was filed in Probate Court and revealed that his daughters, Mrs. Horvena Alexander and Mrs. Melace Duncan, fell heirs to the property.

Sudduth died in Freedom's Hospital last March following an illness. He was a pioneer real estate broker and operated his own business. He was president of the Industrial Federal Savings and Loan Company, owner of the Manse Hotel and other valuable properties in Cincinnati.

Horace Sudduth's estate \$366,152

CINCINNATI, Ohio, July 7.—Horace H. Sudduth, president of the National Negro Business League and nationally known real estate broker, left an estate valued at \$366,152.91, an inventory filed in Probate Court revealed last week.

Mr. Sudduth, who dies in Freedom's Hospital last March after being ill for some time, left the entire estate to his two daughters, Mrs. Horvena Alexander and Mrs. Melace Duncan. A pioneer real estate broker, Mr. Sudduth operated his own real estate business, was president of the Industrial Federal Savings and Loan Company, owner of the Manse Hotel and other valuable properties here.

ESTIMATES ON the size of his estate at the time of his death varied from \$350,000 to \$500,000, not too far off from the sum shown in Wednesday's inventory.

That inventory shows the following holdings:

Real estate,—his home,—1350 W. H. Taft Rd., \$15,000; Manse Hotel, 1004 Chapel, \$150,000; Manse Hotel Annex, \$60,000;

2914 Monfort, \$3,000; 3005 Monfort, \$6,000; 1016 Lincoln Ave., \$22,500; 2921 Monfort, \$4,000;

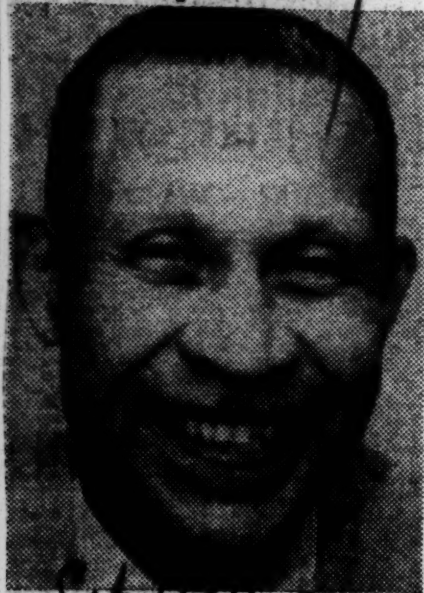
Property at 446 Chestnut, \$7,000; 623 W. Ninth St., \$3,500; 804 Hopkins, \$3,700; 806 Hopkins, \$3,700; 413 W. Fifth (building and loan), \$8,000; 421 W. Fifth (real estate office), \$10,000; 646-48 W. Sixth, \$8,000.

PERSONAL PROSPERITY

Big Four Building and Savings Co., \$421.79; Industrial Federal Savings and Loan Co., \$21,000; Metropolitan Insurance Co., \$22,500; Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Co., \$2,000;

Cadillac automobile (1950 model), \$150; North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co., \$515.53; furniture and fixtures in the Manse Hotel, \$14,667.59, for a grand total of \$366,152.91.

\$140,000
Currier p 3
**Wins Irish
 Sweepstake**



PH. 11-29-57
ROBERT H. LOVING

... after 10 years

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Robert H. Loving, a \$7,500-per-year housing project manager, climaxed a 10-year try last week when he came up with the jackpot prize of all, a \$140,000 winning Irish Hospital Sweepstakes ticket.

The 47-year-old Loving is one of three persons in the Philadelphia area holding lucky stubs.

THE HAPPY winner stated that the money would be used mainly to clear off the mortgage on his Yeadon (aP.) home and to assure medical care for his aged mother, Mrs. Mildred C. Loving, 83, who received injuries from a fall some time ago.

He and his wife, Thelma, will visit the Virgin Islands. Mrs. Loving is a supply clerk in the distribution division of the U.S. Signal Corps.

Davidson County Citizens Invest \$642,495 In Bonds 10-11-59-07

Davidson countians invested \$642,495 in U. S. Saving Bonds during October, according to Bascom P. Jones, county savings bonds chairman. Sales for the first ten months amounted to \$5,384,831 and gave the county 69.9 per cent of its goal for the year. State sales for October are up 10.1 per cent over last year.

Increasing Savings Bonds sales are attributed by some financial observers to recent changes in the investment markets. This, together with the expected upsurge in Christmas Bond buying, will likely push the country's sales much higher before the end of the year, according to the county chairman.

**Dies In Prison;
Leaves Estate
Worth \$25,000**

San Antonio, Tex. (INS)

— Edward Wells, 35-year-old San Antonio man, who died Wednesday in the Texas Penitentiary at Huntsville, left an estate of \$25,000 accruing from disability compensation paid as a result of World War II injuries. *4-19-57*

Wells was serving a 35-year sentence for the attack of a Kelly Air Force Base WAC. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Relatives of Wells asked their attorney to file application for the dead man's money. *371*